

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5 1. A dispenser [for material which is in the form of a coherent body and is to be applied to a surface,] comprising:

(a) a manipulable applicator unit including an applicator for the material; and

10 (b) a material container unit having proximal and distal ends and comprising an assembly including

(i) a well, opening through the proximal end of the unit, in which the applicator is removably insertable, for storing and shielding the applicator;

15 (ii) a receptacle with an open side, disposed distally of the well and opening laterally of the unit, [for holding a coherent body of the material;] and

20 (iii) a cover manually movable relative to the receptacle for opening and closing the receptacle, the receptacle when open providing access for the applicator to be brought into contact with material of the coherent body.

25 2. A dispenser as defined in claim 1, wherein the applicator has a manually graspable handle that projects outwardly of the well when the applicator is inserted in the well.

30 3. A dispenser as defined in claim 1, wherein the container unit includes a housing member having a proximal portion and a distal portion.

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35 4. A dispenser as defined in claim 3, wherein the well is formed in the proximal portion of the housing member, wherein the distal portion of the housing member is hollow and opens through the distal end of the unit to constitute the cover, and wherein the receptacle comprises a drawer slidable completely

into and at least partially out of the hollow distal portion of the housing member through the distal end of the unit.

5. A dispenser as defined in claim 3, wherein the distal portion of the housing member has a side wall with a lateral opening formed therein.

6. A dispenser as defined in claim 5, wherein the well is formed in the proximal portion of the housing member and the receptacle is mounted in the distal portion of the housing member with its open side in register with the lateral opening, and wherein the cover is carried by the housing and is manually moveable relative thereto.

7. A dispenser as defined in claim 6, wherein the cover is hingedly mounted on the housing member.

8. A dispenser as defined in claim 6, wherein the cover is a sleeve rotatably surrounding at least the distal portion of the housing member and having a lateral sleeve opening such that rotation of the sleeve moves the sleeve opening into and out of register with the lateral opening of the housing member.

9. A dispenser as defined in claim 5, wherein at least the distal portion of the housing member is hollow, and wherein the receptacle is disposed within the hollow distal portion of the housing member so as to be manually rotatable relative thereto to move the open side of the receptacle into and out of register with the lateral opening of the housing member.

10. A dispenser as defined in claim 9, wherein the well is formed in the proximal portion of the housing member, and the receptacle has a manually graspable portion to enable manual rotation of the receptacle relative to the housing member.

11. A dispenser as defined in claim 9, wherein the housing member has a generally cylindrical hollow interior extending between and opening through the proximal and distal ends of the unit, and wherein the receptacle and well are respectively formed as distal and proximal portions of an integral elongated inner member inserted within and extending from end to end of said hollow interior, the housing member and the inner member having a common long axis and the inner member being rotatable relative to the housing member about said common long axis.

12. A dispenser as defined in claim 11, wherein the applicator unit includes at least one projection disposed to engage the proximal portion of the inner member for rotating the inner member between positions in which the open side of the receptacle is respectively in and out of register with the lateral opening of the housing member.

13. A dispenser as defined in claim 12, wherein said one projection is a laterally projecting nib, and wherein said proximal portion of the inner member has a proximal edge formed with a notch or slot for receiving said nib.

14. A dispenser as defined in claim 13, wherein said nib is dimensioned to project laterally outwardly of said inner member notch or slot when the applicator is inserted in the well, and wherein the housing member has a proximal inner wall portion, surrounding the well, formed internally with a groove or ridge engageable with the nib for retaining the applicator in the well.

15. A dispenser as defined in claim 14, wherein said housing member is formed internally with a helical groove or thread such that the applicator unit is secured to the housing member by threaded engagement when the applicator is inserted in the well, and the threaded engagement and disengagement of the applicator unit with the housing unit rotates the inner

member to close and open the receptacle by turning the open side wall of the receptacle respectively out of and into register with the lateral opening of the housing member.

5 16. A dispenser as defined in claim 14, wherein the inner member and the housing member have mutually engageable stop portions for arresting rotation of the inner member relative to the housing member at extremities of rotary position at which the open side wall of the receptacle is respectively entirely
10 out of, and in, register with the lateral opening of the housing member.

15 17. A dispenser as defined in claim 16, wherein the respective stop portions of the inner member and the housing member interengage with a click to releasably lock the inner member relative to the housing member at each of said extremities of rotary position.

20 18. A dispenser as defined in claim 1, wherein said cover is transparent to enable viewing of material contained in the receptacle.

25 19. A dispenser as defined in claim 1, including a pan removably seated in the receptacle, for holding the coherent body of material.

30 20. A dispenser as defined in claim 19, wherein the pan has a bottom, and the receptacle has an aperture affording external access to the bottom of the pan to enable the pan to be pushed out of the receptacle for replacement with another pan containing a coherent body of material to be applied.

35 21. A dispenser as defined in claim 19, wherein the pan is divided into a plurality of laterally opening compartments for respectively holding different coherent bodies of material to be applied.

22. A dispenser as defined in claim 1, wherein one of the receptacle and the cover is engageable with the applicator unit and movable thereby relative to the other of the receptacle and the cover, such that the receptacle is opened and closed by manipulation of the applicator unit.

23. A dispenser as defined in claim 1, wherein one of the receptacle and the cover is engageable by the applicator unit for releasably securing the receptacle and cover in closed condition.

24. A dispenser as defined in claim 22, wherein the cover comprises a housing member within which the receptacle is disposed and is translatable between open and closed positions.

25. A dispenser as defined in claim 23, wherein the receptacle open side is movable between positions respectively within and outside the housing member, wherein the well is formed integrally with the receptacle, and wherein the applicator unit is engageable with the well.

26. A dispenser as defined in claim 24, wherein the housing member has a proximal portion formed with a lateral window, the well is formed integrally with the receptacle, and the applicator unit threadedly engages the well to move the receptacle axially between positions in which the receptacle open side is respectively in and out of register with the window.

27. A dispenser as defined in claim 22, including a housing member which contains the receptacle and within which the cover is disposed and is translatable between open and closed positions.

28. A dispenser for material which is in the form of a coherent body and is to be applied to a surface, comprising:

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- (a) a tubular and open-ended housing member having opposed proximal and distal extremities and a lateral opening;
- (b) an inner member, including a receptacle having an open side for holding a coherent body of the material, disposed within the housing member for rotation relative thereto between positions in which the open side of the receptacle is respectively in and out of register with the lateral opening of the housing member; and
- (c) a manipulable applicator unit, including an applicator for the material, insertable in the proximal extremity of the housing member so as to seat removably therein; the applicator unit and the inner member having mutually engageable portions for transmitting rotary motion of the applicator unit to the inner member to rotate the inner member between the aforesaid positions when the applicator unit is at least partially inserted in the proximal end of the housing member.

29. A cosmetics package comprising a dispenser as defined in claim 1 and a coherent body of material disposed in the receptacle thereof.

30. A cosmetics package as defined in claim 29, wherein said applicator is a brush and said material is lip colorant.